



National Western Center Citizens Advisory Committee

Thursday, September 29, 2016 – Meeting Summary

1. Welcome and Introductions

Kelly Leid called the meeting to order. He explained that Terrance and Maria had prior engagements and were unable to attend so he filled in as facilitator.

2. NWC Equity Partner Updates

WSSA/National Western Stock Show Association

Paul Andrews led the presentation on behalf of the WSSA. He notified CAC members that on November 19th the National Western Stock Show complex will hold an event for the Elyria Globeville Swansea neighborhoods. The event will include live music, food and free haircuts. Additionally, all children will be given free backpacks. He asked CAC members to spread the word. He also informed the CAC that Stock Show Association is closing deals with all of the sponsors for the upcoming stock show this year and expects a great turnout. He was proud to say that in four weeks he is heading to Singapore where he will be a keynote speaker at the Royal Agricultural Society of the Commonwealth representing the Stock show and the future of the National Western Center.

Before closing his update, Andrews explained that Denver Rock Island Railroad (RIRR) has caused major commotion at the NWC. The NWC owns land behind the river where RIRR began laying tracks only a few weeks ago. It was a hostile takeover of the land and RIRR has been served with a cease and desist order as a result. Andrews explained the issue has led to bitter relations between the two entities, which may further complicate land acquisition and Platte River revitalization. Leid explained that in addition to the cease and desist letter the NWC has send to RIRR, the city has met with RIRR and has been very vocal about revitalizing and preserving the nature of the area. RIRR has been given two options: 1) the city buys the railroad outright 2) proceed with the consolidation of the railroad tracks to make room for the NWC. RIRR has stated they would prefer to consolidate the rail as opposed to an acquisition. Moving forward, Leid's office is working on creating a binding development agreement with RIRR with the goal of rail consolidation. Leid explained that there is a possibility Denver Rock Island won't cooperate with negotiations. If that occurs, the city can acquire the last customer on the site, McDonald Farms, which will be very expensive and was not originally calculated into cost estimates. Afterward, Denver will need to complete a process on the federal level called an adverse abandonment whereby the city reclaims the land based on the principle that Denver Rock Island no longer has a customer on the site and thus no legitimate claim to operate on the land. The primary issue with DRI's rail is that it will have adverse effects on the revitalization of the river, one of the major projects associated with the NWC.

CSU

Jocelyn Hittle explained the CSU alumni association participated in a South Platte River cleanup with the Greenway association the week prior. She was proud to say it had a successful turnout and focus around a good cause. She also handed out fliers on the annual pet wellness clinic with free examinations and vaccines for GES pets.

NWC

Kelly Leid informed the CAC that a delegation from the city will be going to Dubai to represent Denver. He will participate in efforts to spread information about Colorado's agricultural, equestrian and livestock capabilities in addition to the NWC. On November 10th there will be an event to unveil the Next Generation Agricultural study where several panels will discuss next gen ag and how that can translate into the State's agricultural practices.

Questions and Comments

- AE stated she would like to develop stronger relations with the development committee to ensure the GES neighborhoods are represented. She was pleased with all of the outreach that has been done across the state and on a national scale but reminded attendees that the center of gravity for the project is the neighborhood. She also asked for a summary of all the exciting developments and advancements to the effort.
- Lilliana Flores asked what specific plans there are to further involvement with the GES community. Paul Andrews explained that the stock show is involved in regular engagement with the neighborhood each year for the stock show but is also open to discuss more ideas about how to engage the neighborhood more aggressively. He welcomed ideas and asked anyone who has a great idea to send him an email.
- John Zapien suggested a committee be formed to discuss neighborhood involvement for future stock show events. Kelly Leid agreed and suggested that the committee be expanded to discuss year-round events that involve the neighborhood.

3. Community Representative Reports

Executive Oversight Committee

Anne Hayes led the Executive Oversight Committee meeting update on behalf of Dew Dutcher. She explained that the Heron Pond/Heller Open Space master study will begin soon. She informed the CAC that Drew advocated for the neighborhood and asked whether any decisions had been made prior to the master planning process and was told that the discussion has been left open to input and as of yet no plans have been finalized. She also informed the CAC that Eric Shafran gave a presentation on the campus regeneration at the most recent EOC meeting with a focus on sustainability.

Capital and Operating Funding Alignment Subcommittee

Armando Payan explained there was nothing new to report. The next meeting will be held on October 26th.

Event Planning Advisory Subcommittee

AE explained that the EPAS has been suspended because some of the leadership felt it was a premature effort. She disagrees with postponing the EPAS meetings and felt that contrary to other notions, more focus should be centered on events at the NWC. She explained that some progress has been made in determining venues for short-term events but asserted that more can be done to ensure the content and mission of the NWC is bolstered through near-future events that are accessible to the community. She feels that the stock show can play a larger role in getting the community involved. She explained she intends to continue her discussions with CSU and

other stakeholders for programming with the sole objective of enriching the programming content and empowering the community.

Kelly Leid explained the two EPAS Co-chairs, Ed Nichols and George Sparks, have extensive experience in strategic event planning and felt that the current stage of the project reduces their ability to create meaningful programming. The EPAS was created based on the notion that it will evolve as the NWC progresses and the leadership structure is formed. He also noted that postponing the EPAS does not mean programming cannot be planned in the short term.

Questions and Comments

- John Zapien expressed concern for the planning process at Heron Pond. He and Michael Sapp also discussed how to ensure the community is able to play a more central role in developing the master plan and each step along the way. John Zapien felt as though Parks and Rec and Public Works had been evasive and that the planning process thus far has been lacking in transparency.

4. NWC Project Updates

Barb Frommell updated the CAC on recent developments with the Delgany Interceptor Study. The Delgany Interceptor Study objectives include goals such as understanding the long-range infrastructure opportunities, integrating the NWC harmoniously with it surrounding, and developing opportunities to leverage funding for further research on the pipeline and potentially moving it. For those that were unfamiliar Frommell explained that the Delgany interceptor is a dual sanitary pipeline that runs through the campus. It carries most of Denver's wastewater to the treatment facility north of the city in Adams County. She noted that if the structure were entirely underground it wouldn't be an issue but unfortunately a portion of the pipeline along the South Platte River is above ground and complicates the river reclamation process. Some of the NWC Master Plan goals are to open access to the river by removing rail along the Platte, building National Western Drive along the river to increase access, improve river habitat and health, creating recreational trails and engaging the river and surrounding nature. In terms of the actual water, the Master Plan calls for the treatment of storm water on site, net zero or net positive impact on water quality/quantity, and providing watershed education etc. Frommell explained that the pipe has posed a major issue for the NWC due to several logistic barriers. For one the Delgany isn't owned by the city. There also is not a simple way to move or reroute it to a preferable location. Because of that, Frommell's team has a considered the ramifications of keeping the interceptor in place. She cited the Highline in New York City as an example of dated infrastructure that was actually turned into something useful and beautiful and explained that the same principal could be applied to the Delgany as an option.

In the meantime, the Army Corps of Engineers has been working on a study to determine how the river can be restored. They are looking at a four-mile stretch of the river from 6th Avenue up through Adams County. It is a long-range project and there is no guarantee any of the solutions gleaned from the study will come to fruition. Several of the study objectives are in line with the goals of the NWC including ecosystem restoration, reducing flood risk, recreation and notably how to move the sanitary pipeline. Through their study, the NWC has found that it may be possible to move a portion of the Delgany away from the campus area. Frommell pointed out that although much of the discussion has been centered on how to mitigate some of the negative impacts of the Delgany Interceptor, it also has some positive attributes. One of the primary goals for the NWC is sustainability and the Delgany Interceptor will allow the campus to capture some of the heat from the pipe to heat various campus facilities. Ideally the study will be completed under an accelerated process to allow for adequate planning and amendments to the NWC Master Plan. Frommell explained that the contractor hired to complete the study will likely be hired by the end of October and a study completion date sometime in March. The results of the study will be presented to the EOC and the CAC in the spring of 2017.

Kelly Leid discussed the procurement process. He noted that the project reporting RFPs have been issued through the city in a competitive bidding process. He also explained that the NWC is being funded through several different sources (State, Federal, Private etc.) and will need to be reported in a formal process.

The strategic communications and marketing effort will be geared at strategically controlling the conversation and image around the NWC. The selection process for the communications and marketing consultant is underway and has been narrowed to 5 different firms. One of their deliverables will be to launch a new project website for the campus to help tell the story about the project.

The Brighton Blvd project is underway. An RFP went out for design 100% design of the corridor and was awarded to Wilson & Associates. They will work in collaboration with RTD to ensure the design for Brighton is also functional. CDOT will handle the design on Brighton from 44th Street to 47th.

A program management RFP was issued a week prior to the CAC meeting. It will provide the horsepower to advance the project implementation alongside NWCO. A notice to proceed with the selected project management team will be issued in February of 2017. The firm selected through the RFP process will be expected to attend the CAC meetings as well to gain an understanding of the community expectations for the NWC and report on campus progress.

A campus place making RFP will go out in early 2017. It has been staggered deliberately so that the project management team can be selected and settled in first. Once the place making team is selected they will work in collaboration with the project management team to create a schedule for the NWC. They will also begin to consider the design and aesthetic of the NWC campus.

Questions and Comments

- John Zapien expressed support for moving the Delgany Interceptor if it is a feasible option.
- Kelly Leid explained that at present there is a growing discussion around moving the Delgany so that it runs under the planned National Western Drive.
- John Zapien asked how the RTD station along Brighton Blvd will complement the National Western Center. Kelly Leid informed him that the station will be integrated with a western theme. Zapien emphasized the importance of ensuring the area serves a complementary role.

6. NDCC Updates

Chris Pacheco gave a brief update on the 47th Avenue bike lane. He explained that it was implemented through the GES Neighborhood Plan which called for multimodal connectivity in the area. Prior to implementation a public outreach process was conducted with the primary goal of gauging community sentiment towards reduced street parking for the integration of the bike lanes. Through the outreach process, the NDCC found overall support for the bike lanes and increased transit options although there was some concern for the effect on sidewalk traffic and the loss of parking. In 2017 the street will be repaved and permanent bike lanes will be put in but in the meantime temporary bike lane stripes have been painted into the pavement.

Questions and Comments

- Albus Brooks stated he was contacted by individuals who were concerned about the loss of parking along 47th. He noted that in addition to general support, the project has also created some apprehension for commuters and stakeholders in the area. Pacheco explained that the net loss of parking was partially addressed by integrating select areas along the road where vehicles can still park.

7. Open Discussion, Announcements & Public Comments

Habitat for Humanity is celebrating its 100th home repair, which equates to one hundred families that have been helped through the process. In 2017 Habitat plans to aggressively increase the amount of home repairs it completes with the goal of completing another fifty.

8. Attendance

Kelly Leid (NDCC) (Facilitator)

AE (Globeville)

Carrie Atiyeh (VISIT Denver)

Liliana Flores Amaro (Swansea)

Albus Brooks (Denver Councilman)

Bettie Cram (Swansea)

Patricia Carmody (Colorado Watershed)

Jim Garcia (Clinica Tepeyac)

Anne Hayes (Westfield)

Armando Payan (Globeville)

Juan Veloz (Elyria-Swansea)

John Zapien (Globeville)

Liz Davis (DMNS)

Pat Grant (NWSS)

Paul Andrews (NWSS)

Jocelyn Hittle (CSU)